

# **Political Party Code of Conduct**

For the 2020  
Parliamentary  
Elections

# Political Party Code of Conduct

## For the 2020 Parliamentary Elections

### Preamble

Signatory political parties, –

Recognizing the high responsibility towards the state of Georgia, its citizens and their future;

Striving for the peaceful and democratic development of the country;

Recognizing the international obligations of the state of Georgia, the rule of law, the importance of conducting the electoral process in accordance with the law and ethical principles;

Recognizing the importance of upholding the principles of justice, democratic dialogue and cooperation between the parties;

Recognizing that the principles of this Ethics have no legal force and constitute a set of rules of conduct established by political parties by consensus;

Putting state interests above private and party interests;

Affirming that, in spite of our political differences, we will, in good faith and responsibly, abide by this Code of Conduct in order to contribute to the establishment of a multi-party, democratic public order, to the conduct of an ethical, fair and equal electoral process;

We agree on the following:

### 1. General principles

- 1.1. We shall recognize the rule of law and undertake to act in accordance with the Constitution of Georgia, the laws, the principles of democratic governance and the interests of society;
- 1.2. We shall respect and protect the rights of all political parties, candidates and voters;
- 1.3. We shall carry out activities without discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion, gender or other grounds;
- 1.4. We shall not use hate speech, xenophobic and/or intimidating expressions;
- 1.5. We shall promote a peaceful election environment, do not resort to violence, and do not call for its use;
- 1.6. Conduct an inclusive and representative electoral process that provides equal opportunities for all voters and other vulnerable groups involved in the electoral process;
- 1.7. We will spend the financial resources of the election campaign in a transparent manner and in compliance with the requirements of the law.

## 2. Decent and fair competition

- 2.1. We shall run a subject-based, program-oriented and issue-oriented election campaign, respect the dignity of our competitors, and refrain from personal insults;
- 2.2. Respect the right of rival political parties / candidates to campaign;
- 2.3. We will not obstruct the pre-election campaign activities and distribution of agitation materials, including the mobilization and confrontation of our own activists and supporters at the pre-election campaign events of rival political parties / candidates;
- 2.4. We will not use or intentionally spread illegally obtained and / or false information about other candidates, we will not fabricate and falsify information;
- 2.5. Neither directly nor through hired third parties will we use the bot network to launch a political or personal attack on political opponents in cyberspace;
- 2.6. We will not use administrative resources to gain an advantage in the election process. Including refraining from the use of human, financial, and other administrative assets, except as permitted by law;
- 2.7. During the election campaign, we refrain from making public statements, campaign materials (media, video, audio, social media, print) that contain allegations of slander, treason, terrorism, other criminal offenses, as well as incitement to hatred or conflict on the national, ethnic, religious or other ground;
- 2.8. We will not provide the media with defamatory, unsubstantiated information about other political entities, their members, and we will publicly condemn the actions and statements of the media or individual media representatives that contain threats, slander, or insults to a voter or election contestant.

## 3. Respect for the rights of voters

- 3.1. We agree to respect the right of voters to participate in the political and electoral process;
- 3.2. We agree that voters should be given the opportunity to make informed and free choices without any limitation or harassment;
- 3.3. We agree not to obstruct voters in participating in the election process and expressing their free will;
- 3.4. We shall run an inclusive election campaign in which women, young people and vulnerable (vulnerable/less protected) groups will have equal opportunity to participate;
- 3.5. We will not attempt to bribe voters or members of the election administration directly or indirectly, using third parties, using state resources or promising it;
- 3.6. We will not attempt to intimidate voters or members of the election administration, we will not exert pressure or violence on voters, or threaten with such violence. Among them, we will not exercise voter control and monitoring on election day. We will not try to make a contact with voters at the polling station or in the surrounding area for the agitation purposes, we publicly call on supporters and activists to fulfill above commitment;

- 3.7. We will not let our members and activists to instruct the voters to take a photo of a ballot paper marked in the voting booth; Also, will not instruct the voters to take the ballot paper out of the polling station in order to show it to the third party;
- 3.8. In order to protect the health and safety of each voter, our activists and supporters, will carefully observe the social distance during the election campaign and the relevant recommendations developed by the Ministry of Health to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (Covid19).

#### 4. Performance and monitoring

- 4.1. We shall implement and apply this Code of Conduct inside the party structure, regional organizations and party's day-to-day activities. Provide information and instructions on our commitments under this Code of Conduct to our party officials, activists, and supporters;
- 4.2. We invite and agree that international observer missions, independent civil society organizations and media groups monitor and evaluate the fulfillment of our commitments under this document;
- 4.3. We agree to introduce an intra-party mechanism for the enforcement and monitoring of this Code of Conduct, the information and experience of which we will periodically share with other parties in order to establish an inter-party mechanism for monitoring and enforcing the Code of Conduct in the future;
- 4.4. We take responsibility, to stand up and condemn the facts of violation of these ethics by our own party candidates, party workers, representatives and activists;
- 4.5. We agree not to use satellite civil society organizations to observe the election process in order to gain advantage at the polling stations;
- 4.6. We recognize cyber-security risks and take active steps to raise awareness among party members to prevent digital and electronic threats;
- 4.7. We agree not to abuse the Electoral Complaints Mechanism and not to file false, fabricated and unfounded complaints as a result of fabrication;
- 4.8. We agree to work with other parties and the election administration peacefully, in a timely manner and in accordance with the principle of mutual respect to resolve disputes and conflicts arising during the election process;
- 4.9. We undertake to respond promptly to the violations set forth in this Code of Conduct.

*The Central Election Commission of Georgia, with the support of the Switzerland, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Republican Institute (IRI), has facilitated the process of drafting a Code of Conduct for political parties for the Parliamentary Elections of 2020.*

## Signatory Political Parties:

- 1) "European Georgia – Movement for Liberty" – N2
- 2) "United Georgia – Democratic Movement" – N3
- 3) "Christian-Democratic Movement" – N4
- 4) "United National Movement" – N5 (election bloc)
- 5) "Georgian Republican Party" – N5 (election bloc)
- 6) "Movement – State for People" – N5 (election bloc)
- 7) "Georgian European Democrats" – N5 (election bloc)
- 8) "Alliance of Patriots of Georgia" – N8
- 9) "Greens Party of Georgia" – N9
- 10) "Labour Party of Georgia" – N10
- 11) "Our United Georgia" – N15
- 12) "New Christian-Democrats" – N16
- 13) "Victorious Georgia" – N17
- 14) "Industry will Save Georgia" – N18
- 15) "Sakartvelo" – N20
- 16) "New Power" – N23
- 17) "Aleko Elisashvili – Citizens" – N24
- 18) "Free Democrats" – N25
- 19) "For Justice" – N26
- 20) "Giorgi Vashadze – Strategy Aghmashenebeli – N27 (election bloc)
- 21) "Georgian Roots" – N28
- 22) "Change Georgia" – N30
- 23) "Tavisufleba Zviad Gamsakhurdia's Gza" – N31
- 24) "People's Party" – N32
- 25) "National Democratic Party" (NDP) – N33
- 26) "For Social Justice" – N34
- 27) "Girchi" – N36
- 28) "Georgian Christian-Conservative Party" – 37
- 29) "Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia" – N41
- 30) "Reformers" – N42
- 31) "Road of Zviadi" (For God, Justice for the Country" – N43
- 32) "Georgian Conservative Party" – N47
- 33) "Political Movement of Armed Veterans and Patriots of Georgia" – N51
- 34) "Traditionalists" – N53
- 35) "Lelo for Georgia" – N56
- 36) "Georgian Social-Democratic Party" – N58
- 37) "Civil Alliance for Freedom"

